

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Telephone Town Hall Meetings – Please mark your calendar for these upcoming meetings: Mayor Seiler - March 5; District I Vice Mayor Roberts - April 8; District II Commissioner Trantalis - May 14; and District III Commissioner DuBose - June 9. My Telephone Town Hall Meeting is set for July 10.

➤ To join in and comment on City issues, please call toll free 1-855-269-4484 from 7 - 8 PM.

Your Input is Welcome – [Http://www.WeBuildCommunityFTL.com](http://www.WeBuildCommunityFTL.com) is the City's new web page where residents may share their ideas with City officials and others. On the site, you may comment within forums on climate adaptation and economic development, or post a general comment about City programs and services.

E Las Olas – On February 18, the City Commission requested that staff proceed with Phases 1 and 2 of the Las Olas Boulevard Mobility Study. The overall intent is to reduce impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods by providing more efficient movement of car and truck traffic in the area. The recommended improvements focus on pedestrian safety and creating a multimodal roadway. Staff will be coordinating with Broward County on improving the signal timing at SE 15th Avenue and E Las Olas, as well as at SE 15th Avenue and Broward Boulevard to help move traffic more efficiently along SE 15th Avenue. If the signal timing adjustments are successful in alleviating the queue of traffic, staff will then work with the County to remove the north- and south-bound stop controls along SE 15th Avenue at SE 2nd Street. Other improvements include: a pedestrian crosswalk at SE 13th Avenue and E Las Olas; a right-turn-only lane at E Las Olas and SE 15th Avenue; removal of on-street parking on SE 15th Avenue; lane markings on E Las Olas and Broward Boulevard; and curb improvements to accommodate turning trucks. The study recommends phased implementation with analysis after each phase to ensure the improvements are effective before proceeding with the next phase.

Canal Dredging – The Commission recently approved 12 dredging projects in District IV for FY 2014; nine of these are in Lauderdale Isles, two in Harbor Beach, and one in the Beverly Heights / Colee Hammock area. To foster and enhance the City's image as a marine capital, we need to improve the navigability of our 65-mile canal network. System-wide surveys of canal depths, as well as benthic surveys of biological communities living in or on canal beds, must be done to determine the degree of permitting needed. For example, canals with seagrass beds may require mitigation. Timing of the dredging must also take Manatee Season (November 15 - March 31) into account.

Recent Recognition –

- **Patricia Zeiler**, Executive Director of the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association, has been named the Nonprofit Staff Leader of the Year at the 211 Broward 2014 Nonprofit Academy Awards ceremony. She is also among the "Women in Transportation" honored by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- The National Complete Streets Coalition, part of Smart Growth America, has ranked the City of Fort Lauderdale's **Complete Streets Policy** third nationwide among 83 policies adopted in 2013. To date, 610 jurisdictions in 48 states have Complete Streets policies in place.
- The City of Fort Lauderdale has earned the **Gold Certification** from the Florida Green Building Coalition. The City is now certified as a Florida Green Local Government.

Free Income Tax Preparation – Through April 15, the City is offering this free service for individuals with an annual income of less than \$52,000. Services are offered at Carter Park, 1450 W Sunrise Boulevard, Tuesdays from 6 – 9 PM and Saturdays from 10 AM - 2 PM. No appointment is necessary. For details, call 954-828-5411 or see http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/news/2014/pdf/VITA_free_tax_prep.pdf.

Household Hazardous Waste – With proof of residency, City residents can participate in this free, bi-monthly drop-off event, the next one being in the City of Coconut Creek, 4800 W Copans Road, March 8, 9 AM - 2 PM. To review the guidelines, see http://fortlauderdale.gov/public_services/trash/hazardous_waste.htm.

City Staff Transitions – After serving as Deputy Director for more than two years, **Jenni Morejon** has been appointed Director-Designee of the City's Department of Sustainable Development, effective February 10. Long-time director, **Greg Brewton**, will be retiring in the coming months, after 35 years of public service. In other City news, former head of Procurement Services, **Kirk Buffington**, has been named the new Finance Director.

Event Calendar –

- **Fort Lauderdale's St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival** is March 8. Info is at <http://www.ftlaudirishfest.com>.
- **The Ban Cancer 2014** concert is March 15, 6:30 PM at Esplanade Park. See <http://richardjfoxfoundation.org>.
- The **Las Olas Sunday Market**, sponsored by the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association, now includes more than 50 vendors, who offer a variety of goods from 9 AM to 4 PM at SE 4th Avenue and E Las Olas.

➤ **My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 – 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon (in non-Commission weeks).** For appointments, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.